



General Assembly

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A/RES/46/95
18 March 1992

Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 94 (a)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/704 and Corr.1 and 2)]

46/95. World social situation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1392 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 40/98 and 40/100 of 13 December 1985, 42/49 of 30 November 1987, 43/113 of 8 December 1988, 44/56 of 8 December 1989 and 45/87 of 14 December 1990,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/39, 1987/40, 1987/46 and 1987/52 of 28 May 1987, 1989/72 of 24 May 1989 and 1990/28 of 24 May 1990, and taking note of Council resolution 1991/4 of 30 May 1991,

Having considered the interim report of the Secretary-General, 1/

Bearing in mind the objective of improving the well-being of the world's population on the basis of the full and equal participation of all members of society in the process of development and the fair distribution to them of the benefits therefrom,

Conscious that each country has the sovereign right freely to adopt the economic and social system that it deems the most appropriate and that each Government has the primary responsibility of ensuring the social progress and well-being of the people,

1/ A/46/56-E/1991/6 and Corr.1.

/...

Deeply concerned about the continued worsening of the economic and social situation in many developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, as evidenced by the significant decline in living conditions, the persistence and increase of widespread poverty in a large number of those countries and the decline in their main social and economic indicators,

Bearing in mind that certain developing countries have achieved some economic and social progress,

Convinced that the pace of development in the developing countries should be accelerated substantially in order to enable them to achieve their social objectives, especially in meeting the basic needs for food, housing, education, employment and health care and to struggle against scourges which endanger the health and well-being of their population,

Recognizing that progress in the social and economic fields constitutes an essential priority for national policies, the United Nations and the international community, as well as a prerequisite for international development and peace,

Believing that there is a need for greater effort by the United Nations system to study and disseminate accurate and balanced data and material on the existing world social situation, particularly with regard to emerging trends and institutional structures that have an impact on social development,

Mindful of the need to reflect objectively on the sensitivity and importance of the social problems of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries,

1. Takes note of the interim report of the Secretary-General; 1/
2. Notes with concern that the interim report of the Secretary-General did not adequately focus on the continuing deterioration of the economic and social situation in many developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, which is the prevailing problem in many of those countries;
3. Notes the increasing awareness of the importance of formulating policy measures at all levels based on the interrelationship between economic growth and social progress in the achievement of overall development;
4. Notes with deep concern that despite efforts made at national levels, the economic and social situation in many developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries, continues to deteriorate;
5. Notes also with deep concern the substantial weakening of the overall position of the majority of developing countries in international trade and finance, which has been made worse by a downward trend in commodity prices, a serious deterioration in the terms of trade, the net transfer of resources from developing countries, protectionism and the serious debt burden, combined with high real interest rates;

/...

6. Calls upon the international community to accord particular attention to the deteriorating economic and social situation in the developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, and to ensure that emerging tendencies in global international relations do not impact negatively on the plight of those countries;

7. Calls upon all Member States to promote economic development and social progress by pursuing an interrelated set of policy measures to achieve the goals and objectives established within the framework of national plans and priorities for employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and the ageing, full participation of youth in the development process and full integration and participation of women in development;

8. Reaffirms the commitments and policies for international development cooperation as set out in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 2/ adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session;

9. Reaffirms the validity of the principles and objectives of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development 3/ as well as the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future 4/ and calls for their effective implementation as a means of attaining a more equitable world social situation;

10. Endorses the request of the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1991/4, that the Secretary-General should reorient the draft framework for the 1993 report on the world social situation so that it would be in consonance with the requests set forth in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72;

11. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the 1993 report, to take into account the intrinsic relationship between economic growth and social development and to analyse in depth the economic problems of the developing countries and the impact of those problems on the world social situation;

12. Recommends that the draft of the 1993 report be reviewed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure that an integrated interdisciplinary focus is given and to provide a source of information for the report;

13. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Work being done within the United Nations system on improving quantitative and qualitative indicators on social conditions and standards of living"; 5/

2/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

3/ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

4/ E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

5/ A/46/137-E/1991/40.

14. Invites all appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparation of future reports by making available all relevant information pertaining to their respective areas of competence;

15. Decides to consider the issue of the world social situation under the item entitled "Social development" at its forty-seventh session.

74th plenary meeting
16 December 1991



General Assembly

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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 94 (a)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/704 and Corr. 1 and 2)]

46/96. Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, including resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 1/ and resolution 37/53 of 3 December 1982, in which, inter alia, it proclaimed the period 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons as a long-term plan of action,

Recalling also its resolution 43/98 of 8 December 1988, in which it urged Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to translate into action at all levels, as appropriate, the priorities for global activities and programmes during the second half of the Decade, such as those set forth in the annex to the resolution,

Recalling further the request to the Secretary-General made in its resolution 45/91 of 14 December 1990, to shift the focus of the United Nations programme on disability from awareness-raising to action, with the aim of achieving a society for all by the year 2010, and considering that appropriate means will be required to achieve this,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/9 of 30 May 1991, in which the Council invited Member States to review their policies and programmes with the aim of designing national annual priorities until the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in 1992 and concrete long-term strategies to ensure the full implementation of the World Programme of Action beyond the Decade,

1/ A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV). /...

Welcoming the progress made by the ad hoc open-ended working group established by the Commission for Social Development by its resolution 32/2 of 20 February 1991, 2/ to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,

Noting with concern the deteriorating economic and social situation of many developing countries, which adversely affect vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities,

Aware of the need for new and concerted efforts, more vigorous and broader action, and measures at all levels to fulfil the objectives of the Decade,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of a number of Member States during the Decade to improve the conditions and well-being of persons with disabilities and the willingness of those States to involve persons with disabilities and their organizations in all matters of concern to them,

Noting with appreciation the generous support to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons provided by some Governments through voluntary contributions,

Aware of the important role national committees are playing in furthering the implementation of the World Programme of Action,

Noting with appreciation the convening of the International Meeting on the Roles and Functions of National Coordinating Committees on Disability in Developing Countries at Beijing from 5 to 11 November 1990, and the adoption of the Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of National Coordinating Committees on Disability or Similar Bodies, 3/

Encouraged by the emergence of organizations of persons with disabilities in all regions and their positive influence on the image and condition of persons with disabilities,

Noting the important contributions being made by other non-governmental organizations in improving the status of persons with disabilities,

Recognizing the World Congress of Rehabilitation International, the World Congress of Disabled Peoples' International, the General Assembly of the World Blind Union, Independence '92, and other such important events to be held in 1992 as important activities helping both to mark the end of the Decade and to launch future efforts for persons with disabilities,

Commending the work done by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point in the United Nations system for issues of disabilities,

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 6 (E/1991/26), chap. I, sect. D.

3/ A/C.3/46/4, annex I.

Commending the work being done by the Statistical Office of the Secretariat and welcoming its publication of the Disability Statistics Compendium, 4/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 5/

Desirous of encouraging the continued and practical implementation of the World Programme of Action beyond the Decade,

1. Reiterates the need to achieve the objectives set out in the agenda for action until the end of the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons and beyond, and the preliminary outline of a long-term strategy to the year 2000 and beyond: a society for all, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility study on alternative ways to mark the end of the Decade; 6/

2. Affirms that, in implementing the agenda for action, special attention should be given to persons with disabilities in developing countries;

3. Invites Member States, all organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to review and evaluate, with the active participation of persons with disabilities, their current disability-related policies, programmes and available services with a view to identifying areas in which major progress has been achieved, as well as obstacles encountered in the prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities;

4. Invites all organizations of the United Nations system to incorporate the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in their programmes and activities, including these persons both as active agents and as beneficiaries;

5. Stresses the need, within existing resources, for priority to be given to action-oriented programmes that will renew international consensus on and elicit a sustained political commitment by Member States to the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons beyond the Decade and will ensure the continued improvement of the situation of persons with disabilities;

6. Endorses the Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of National Coordinating Committees on Disability or Similar Bodies, 3/ adopted at Beijing;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Guidelines are disseminated as widely as possible and to assist Member States in undertaking follow-up measures, especially training seminars, to promote their implementation;

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No.E.90.XVII.17.

5/ A/46/366.

6/ See A/45/470.

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to finalize during the next year the review of the translation into the official languages of the United Nations of the World Programme of Action, in particular the terms "impairment", "disability", "handicap" and "disabled person";

9. Endorses the Guidelines for the Development of Organizations of Disabled Persons, 7/ and encourages Governments to consider these Guidelines in their national programmes;

10. Calls upon Governments and bodies of the United Nations system to participate actively in the elaboration of standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities and in this regard to pay attention to the particular needs of women with disabilities;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to take due note of the recommendation of the expert group meetings held at Stockholm in 1987 8/ and at Järvenpää, Finland in 1990, 6/ that organizations of persons with disabilities should be fully represented in all United Nations activities related to the Decade and beyond and, in particular, expert group meetings;

12. Welcomes the announcement by the Government of Canada to host a United Nations expert group meeting to be held in conjunction with Independence '92 at Vancouver, Canada, in April 1992 with the objective of drawing up a long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action to the year 2000 and beyond, with particular focus on recommending practical and action-oriented measures that could be implemented in such fields as legislation and governing mechanisms, community-based rehabilitation, independent living, human rights aspects and economic independence and the creation of an effective international mechanism to coordinate and monitor activities for 1992 and beyond;

13. Welcomes also the offer of the Government of the United States of America to host an international conference on disability, entitled "Setting National Disability Policies - An Agenda for Action";

14. Decides to devote four plenary meetings at its forty-seventh session to mark, at the appropriate global level, the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons;

15. Emphasizes the need to rationalize the work of and strengthen the Disabled Persons Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, in order to enable it to carry out its role in the implementation, within existing resources, of the objectives of the Decade in an effective and efficient manner;

16. Reiterates its appeal to Governments for further voluntary contributions to enable the Disabled Persons Unit to strengthen its focal-point function on issues related to disabilities;

7/ A/C.3/46/4, annex II.

8/ See CSDHA/DDP/GME/7 of 1 September 1987.

17. Reaffirms that the resources of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons should be used to support catalytic and innovative activities in order to implement further the objectives of the World Programme of Action within the framework of the Decade and beyond, with priority given, as appropriate, to programmes and projects of the least developed countries;

18. Invites Governments and non-governmental organizations to continue their contributions to the Voluntary Fund, and calls upon Governments and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to consider contributing to the Voluntary Fund so as to enable it to respond effectively to the growing demand for assistance;

19. Requests the Economic and Social Council at its next session to give its views on the continuation of the Voluntary Fund, with new terms of reference, in response to General Assembly resolution 45/91, and to submit its recommendations to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

20. Invites Member States to submit updated national reports to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agenda for action;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Social development".

74th plenary meeting
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/653)]

46/97. United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, in which it decided to establish the United Nations Development Fund for Women as a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme,

Reaffirming that the Fund has an important role in contributing to an increase in opportunities and options for women in developing countries,

Emphasizing the position of the Fund as a specialized resource base for development cooperation, serving as a bridge between the needs and aspirations of women and the resources, programmes and policies for their economic development,

Bearing in mind that socio-economic inequities at the national and international levels have a detrimental effect on the situation of women in developing countries,

Noting that environmental degradation severely affects the situation of women, particularly in developing countries,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General 1/ transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

1/ A/46/491.

/...

2. Commends the Fund for its support of catalytic and innovative projects that strengthen national capacity to improve the situation of women;

3. Encourages the Fund to continue to promote initiatives that will incorporate the dimension of women's issues in the mainstream development efforts of Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

4. Endorses the role of the Fund in promoting the strategic importance of the economic empowerment of women in the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in 1995;

5. Notes with satisfaction the steady increase in contributions to the Fund and urges Governments and public and private donors to continue to extend their support of the Fund through voluntary contributions and pledges to its programmes;

6. Stresses the importance of the work of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme directions relating to the activities of the Fund;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of providing conference services in the relevant working languages to the Consultative Committee, bearing in mind the importance of its work;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the Fund, to be submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/125.

74th plenary meeting
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